

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF: Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation  
Hazen (Mercer County), North Dakota

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 380932-03

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project for the City of Hazen in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDEQ has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion and is exempt from further substantive environmental review.

Because the proposed project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion, a full Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment will not be required. Following is a description of the proposed project and a brief statement of how the project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion.

The proposed project consists of improvements to the sanitary sewer system for the City of Hazen. The existing system was originally built in the early to mid 1900's and has been expanded, repaired, and portions replaced over the years. The system consists primarily of old vitrified clay pipe that has reached the end of its useful life and is showing signs of failure. These failures are allowing increased infiltration of ground water and sediment into the system, which may lead to sewage backups. Furthermore, the city's wastewater treatment system is not designed to handle the increased volume of water being generated, and it is increasingly more expensive for the city to treat the extra volume of wastewater. Failure to correct these issues will result in continued risk to the surrounding environment and public health.

The proposed project will rehabilitate the sanitary sewer system using trenchless methods, such as cured-in-place pipe, and open cut excavation to repair sanitary sewer mains and manholes. These improvements will reduce the issues associated with ground water infiltration into the system and ensure the consistent and safe conveyance of the city's wastewater.

The City of Hazen plans to apply for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan to finance the project.

This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely within the alignment of existing streets and right-of-way owned by the city. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State

Historic Preservation Officer concurs with a determination of “No Historic Properties Affected” for the project provided it takes place as described in the documentation and all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 24-0180). It has been determined that exempting the proposed project from further review under the National Environmental Policy Act will not result in adverse impacts to the population or area of Hazen and Mercer County.

The documentation to support this decision will be on file and available for public review at the NDDEQ, Division of Municipal Facilities.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Evan Wahl, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324.

Dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024

Sincerely,

David J. Bruschwein, P.E.  
Director  
Division of Municipal Facilities